

REMARKS

Claims 27-49 are currently pending in the application with Claims 1-26 having been cancelled. Claims 27, 34 and 42 are the base (independent) claims.

In response to the claim objection in the Office Action at hand, Claim 27 has been amended to remove a stray character. This amendment is clerical in nature and adds no new matter. Further, Claim 42 has been amended to correct grammatical errors. No new matter is introduced. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

In response to the objection to the Specification, the foregoing amendment to Specification page 1 places priority information on the first lines of the Specification directly after the Title. This is the second time Applicant has requested such amendment to the Specification. The first request was on the "Utility Patent Application Transmittal" (penultimate paragraph) filed with the application on July 3, 2003. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

Claims 27, 29-35, 37-43 and 45-49 have been rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting with regard to Claims 1, 3-7, 9-10, 12-18 and 20-24 of U.S. Patent No. 6,206,584. A Terminal Disclaimer in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) is attached and thus the double patenting rejection is believed to be overcome. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

Claims 28, 36 and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as Claims 2, 11 and 19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,206,584. Claims 28, 36 and 44 are now cancelled. Thus the § 101 rejection should be withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of the IDS is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all pending claims (Claims 27, 29-35, 37-43 and 45-49) are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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